



Ron Olson Assumes Duties as CHBA President – On July 19th, Vince Laberge resigned as President of the CHBA and Ron Olson, CHBA's First Vice-President, assumed the duties of President in accordance with our national By-laws. In taking on this role, Mr. Olson extended his thanks to Mr. Laberge for his many years of dedicated service to the Association, at all levels. "Simply put, Vince has always been a tremendous volunteer, providing leadership at all levels of the Association." Mr. Olson will ensure leadership continuity with regard to the CHBA's national agenda and priorities, and he has indicated that he looks forward to working with the Executive Board and Board of Directors in the coming months.

Pre-Budget Submission – The CHBA has completed its Pre-Budget Submission that will be presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance in the fall. Members are encouraged to read the short five-page document that has three specific and inter-related recommendations to make to the federal government:

- Changes to the GST treatment of new housing and renovations.
- Vigorously tackle the underground 'cash' economy.
- Encourage investment in new purpose-built rental housing.

The Submission points out that two key changes are required with respect to the GST treatment of new housing and renovations: (1) adoption of a single-threshold/full rebate for new housing; and, (2) a home renovation tax rebate. Since the thresholds have now been frozen for two decades, the CHBA is recommending that the federal government adopt the rebate model for new housing that has been adopted by the provincial governments of Ontario and British Columbia under sales tax harmonization. This model is designed to protect housing affordability through a single price threshold. In addition, in order to restore fairness to how home renovations are taxed, the federal government should introduce a permanent Home Renovation Tax Rebate equal to 2.5% of the total cost of a home renovation. Visit the Members' area of www.chba.ca to read the full Submission.

Accessibility in Housing – The CHBA has completed a report, "Housing Accessibility Regulation in Canada," and has called on the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes to examine the differences in the accessibility requirements among provinces. The CHBA wishes to avoid a situation in which provinces, acting unilaterally, introduce new requirements for houses which are inconsistent with one another and do not have the benefit of the National Code Development process. The CHBA has recommended that the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) address and resolve these differences on a priority basis for the National Building Code.

CHBA National SAMs – Everything you need to get an early start on the 2011 CHBA National SAM Awards is available now to Members. The competition is open to all CHBA new home builder, renovator and developer members with the entry forms, category listings, tips and guidelines available online at www.chba.ca/SAMS. The deadline for submissions is November 4.

Create and Transform in Mont-Tremblant – 'Create and Transform', the theme of the 2012 CHBA National Conference, will focus on the powerful forces transforming Canadian housing markets, and the compelling business opportunities this presents to CHBA members. Confirmed Conference speakers include General Rick Hillier, Former Chief of the Defence Staff for Canadian Forces, Mitch Joel, author of the business best-seller *Six Pixels of Separation* and columnist on digital media, Sean Wise, venture capitalist and known for his role on CBC Television's *Dragon's Den*, and Dr. Nick Bontis, ranked among the Top 30 management gurus world-wide, and recognized by the Harvard Business Review and Fortune Magazine as "a pioneer and one of the world's real experts in intellectual capital." Our 2012 Conference location is superb – the Fairmont Tremblant Resort, is located at the heart of Mont-Tremblant, a European-style mountain village, and just steps away from the ski lifts and the village centre that combines European ambiance with Québécois hospitality. Mark your calendar now for March 16-18, 2012 in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec. Visit www.chba.ca/conference for more information.